THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Subsidies are given by both the Central and State Governments. Central Government gives subsidies on fertilizers, seeds, machinery etc. under various schemes while State Governments give subsidies for irrigation, power etc. In some cases the financial burden on subsidy is shared between the Centre and the States.

(b) Wherever subsidy is given by the Government for agricultural inputs, it is reflected in the input prices, which are taken into account in the computation of cost of cultivation for the purpose of determining Minimum Support Price for various agricultural commodities.

(c) Under some schemes subsidies are given to all farmers while under some other schemes subsidies are given only to small/marginal farmers. As the number of small farmers is estimated at around 22 million, the number of small farmers who stand to benefit from the subsidy may be taken at around 22 million. However, the actual number of small farmers who benefit from the subsidy may vary depending on the nature and scope of the scheme.

Projects of Himachal Pradesh

†580. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount sanctioned/allocated and released by Government during the last two years to Himachal Pradesh for RVPs, FPR, RAS and NWDPRA, the projects under the Ministry; and

(b) the target for providing aid to Himachal Pradesh under these projects in the forthcoming year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme called Macro Management of Agriculture Scheme and funds are released to the States/UTs on the basis of their Work Plans. The

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Scheme was evolved by merging 27 ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes including the RVP, FPR, RAS & NWDPRA with a view to accord greater flexibility to the States to develop and pursue agriculture activities on the basis of their regional priorities to increase Agriculture Production. Funds as provided and approved by Planning Commission are released to States on lump sum basis. Funds also released as per guidelines fixed by the Ministry of Finance for the Scheme. The funds released to Himachal Pradesh during the last two years are given below:

Year	Allocation	Releases (Rs. in lakhs)
2001-02	1800.00	1800.00
2002-03	1600.00	1600.00

(b) The allocation for the Himachal Pradesh for the year 2003-04 under Macro Managment Scheme is Rs. 1600.00 lakhs. A sum of Rs. 800.00 lakhs has already been released as 1st instalment.

Drought In J & K

581. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that twenty States were declared as drought hit States in the year 2002-2003;

(b) whether it is also a fact that funds were sanctioned/released to those States;

(c) why was Jammu & Kashmir not identified as a drought hit State; and

(d) the criteria adopted for declaring these drought hit States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) 18 States had reported drought situation of varying magnitude during the year 2002-2003.